

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02576 160654Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 114228

R 160607Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 136

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2576

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: PM TO VISIT JAFFNA: POSSIBLE TURNING POINT IN

COMMUNAL RELATIONS

REF COLOMBO A-221

1. PM BANDARANAIKE, IN RECENT SPEECHES, HAS MENTIONED PLANS TO VISIT JAFFNA OCT 26-27 AS PART NATION-WIDE INSPECTION TOUR OF CURRENT FOOD DRIVE. PLANS FOR VISIT, WHICH WOULD BE FIRST FOR PM SINCE ADOPTION OF REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION IN MAY 1972, FOLLOW REPORTS OF SECRET DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TAMIL POLITICIANS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF UFG DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THESE TALKS, ALLEGEDLY BEGUN SEPT 5 BETWEEN TRADE MINISTER T.B. ILANGARATNE AND EX-FEDERAL PARTY (FP) SENATOR TIRUCHELVAN, REPORTEDLY LED GSL TO CONSIDER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GUARANTEEING TAMIL LANGUAGE RIGHTS. TALKS WERE LATER BROADENED TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF TAMIL UNITED FRONT (TUF), APPARENTLY CONCEDED TUF'S LONG-STANDING CLAIM FOR RECOGNITION AS PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR TAMIL COMMUNITY.

2. IN ABSENCE OF PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TALKS, AND REPORTED IMPASSE ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT ISSUES, TAMIL ATTITUDE BAS-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COLOMB 02576 160654Z

ICALLY SKEPTICAL THAT MRS. B SERIOUSLY COMMITTED TO DETENTE

WITH TAMIL MINORITY. THERE EXISTS SUSPICION THAT WILLINGNESS OPEN DIALOGUE NOT UNRELATED TO DECISION BY FP AT RECENT CONVENTION TO PURSUE "SEPARATE TAMIL STATE" (REFAIR) AND TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED OCT 2 BY TUF. WHILE NO TAMIL LEADER HAS DISAVOWED IDEA OF TALKS, TAMILS CLEARLY WISH SEE FURTHER INDICATIONS OF HOW FAR UFG WILLING TO GO TO SATISFY THEIR DEMANDS. TUF THUS HAS ADOPTED CAUTIOUS STRATEGY, ON ONE HAND PARTICIPATING IN JOINT OPPOSITION RALLY HELD OCT 11 WHILE REFUSING TO EXTEND SUPPORT TO OPPOSITION'S "DAY OF MOURNING" RALLY SCHEDULED OCT 19. SIMILARLY, TUF REPRESENTATIVES STUDIOUSLY AVOID REFERENCE TO SEPARATE STATE BUT HAVE MADE NO EFFORT TO CALL OFF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE DAMPAIGN. TAMILS THEMSELVES ARE DIVIDED ON APPROPRIATE FORMAT AND AGENDA OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND ONE POSSIBLE STUMBLING BLOCK TO FURTHER DIALOGUE MAY BE HARD LINE TAKEN BY FP PRESIDENT AND TUF SECRETARY AMIRTHALINGAM ON ISSUES SEPARATING TAMILS FROM UFG.

3. QUESTION IS WHETHER CURRENT UFG INITIATIVE MERELY AIMED AT THROWING TAMILS OFF-BALANCE OR IS PRELIMINARY TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATION. NO SIGNIFICANT SINHALESE REACTION TO WIDESPREAD NEWSPAPER SPECULATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MAY ENCOURAGE PM TO MAINTAIN OPEN LINE OF COMMUNICATION FROM WHICH SHE STANDS TO GAIN MUCH. DIRECTION OF EVENTS HAS PLACED MRS. B IN POSITION TO PROFIT WHEREEVER THEY LEAD. TAMIL INTRANSIGENCE OR EXTREMIST GESTURES IN JAFFNA COULDHELP RALLY SINHALESE OPINION AT TIME OF ECONOMIC CRISIS. POSITIVE TAMIL RESPONSE, IN PARTICULAR GENEROUS WELCOME TO MRS. B IN JAFFNA AND PLEDGE OF FULL COOPERATION IN FOOD DRIVE, WILL ENHANCE PROSPECT OF FURTHER TALKS POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTING TO REAL BREAK-THROUGH IN COMMUNAL RELATIONS.

4. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
VAN HOLLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB02576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731030/aaaaavyf.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COLOMBO A-221
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM TO VISIT JAFFNA: POSSIBLE TURNING POINT IN COMMUNAL RELATIONS
TAGS: PINT, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005